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ASIA EDITION

Chinese startup Jacobio Pharma partners with Merck for cancer clinical trial

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Merck will provide cetuximab for clinical trials in China and Europe under the collaboration agreement



China-based startup Jacobio has entered into a clinical trial collaboration agreement with Merck on clinical study of combination therapy between Jacobio's KRAS G12C inhibitor JAB-21822 and Merck's epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) inhibitor Erbitux (cetuximab).

This clinical study aims to evaluate the efficacy of JAB-21822 in combination with cetuximab in patients with KRAS G12C-mutated colorectal cancer. Jacobio is the sponsor of the combination study, and Merck will provide cetuximab for clinical trials in China and Europe under the collaboration agreement.

"Our preclinical studies have shown that the combination of JAB-21822 and cetuximab can enhance the anti-tumor activity of JAB-21822 inhibitors in colorectal cancer tumor models, regressing tumors and delaying tumour regrowth after drug discontinuation. We look forward to new treatment options for patients through our collaboration with Merck," said Dr WANG Yinxiang, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Jacobio.

JAB-21822 is a KRAS G12C inhibitor independently developed by Jacobio. Jacobio has initiated a number of Phase I/II clinical trials in China, the United States and Europe for patients with advanced solid tumours, including monotherapy for STK11 co-mutated non-small cell lung cancer first-line treatment; combination therapy with SHP2 inhibitor, PD-1 monoclonal antibody and cetuximab.

ERBITUX is an IgG1 monoclonal antibody targeting the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR).